Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of Claims in the

application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for <u>automatically</u> scheduling ~~the~~ performance of maintenance tasks to maintain ~~a~~ <u>at least one server in a</u> ~~system~~ <u>distributed computing</u> environment, comprising:

        <u>providing a distributed computing environment with a plurality of servers,</u> <u>including said at least one server;</u>

        monitoring ~~a parameter for a~~ <u>server conditions on said at least one server</u> ~~computer system~~ to <u>dynamically</u> detect ~~a need to perform~~ <u>at least one predetermined</u> <u>criterion for performing</u> at least one maintenance task <u>on said at least one server in said</u> <u>distributed computing environment</u>; and

        <u>automatically</u> performing <u>said</u> at least one maintenance task ~~when the~~ <u>in response</u> <u>to said</u> monitoring <u>step</u> ~~detects the need to perform at least one maintenance task or at~~ ~~least once within a predetermined period~~, <u>wherein said at least one predetermined</u> <u>criterion comprises low disk space on said at least one server, and wherein said at least</u> <u>one maintenance task comprises reducing a size of log files stored on said at least one</u> <u>server in said distributed computing environment.</u>

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (Cancelled)

5.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said automatically

performing said at least one maintenance task step further comprises:

        running a maintenance routine on demand in response to said monitoring step for

improving ~~computer system~~ operation of said at least one server in said distributed

computing environment.

6.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said automatically

performing said at least one maintenance task step further comprises:

        automatically backing up settings for said at least one server to an archive in said

distributed computing environment.

7.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein ~~the~~ said automatically

backing up settings for said at least one server to an archive step further comprises:

        automatically saving configurations and authorizations for instances of

applications running on ~~a~~ said at least one server in said distributed computing

environment.

8.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said automatically

performing said at least one maintenance task step further comprises:

        writing said log files to said at least one server in said distributed computing

environment.

9.   (Cancelled)

10.   (Cancelled)

11.   (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~10~~ 8, ~~wherein the alerting the administrator upon an occurrence of an event further comprises~~ further comprising:

automatically alerting an administrator when a maintenance task performed on said at least one server in said distributed computing environment fails.

12.   (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~10~~ 8, ~~wherein the alerting an administrator upon an occurrence of an event further comprises alerting an administrator when a maintenance task is ran too often~~ further comprising:

automatically alerting an administrator when a maintenance task on said at least one server in said distributed computing environment is performed excessively.

13.   (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 12, wherein ~~the~~ said automatically performing said at least one maintenance task comprises performing said at least one maintenance task on said at least one server in said distributed computing environment at least once within a predetermined period ~~further comprising performing at least one maintenance task once a day~~.

14.   (Currently amended) A system for automatically scheduling ~~the~~ performance of

Attorney Docket No.: END920030058US1   USSN: 10/635,397   Filing Date: August 6, 2003
Group Art Unit: 4172   Examiner: Neil R. Kardos
Page 6 of 16

maintenance tasks to maintain ~~a~~ <u>at least one server in a</u> ~~system~~ <u>distributed computing</u> environment, comprising:

     a maintenance tool for providing resources for performing at least one maintenance task <u>on said at least one server in said distributed computing environment</u>; and

     a maintenance scheduling ~~device~~ <u>tool</u> for monitoring ~~a parameter for a~~ <u>server conditions</u> on said at least one server ~~computer system~~ to <u>dynamically</u> detect ~~a need to perform~~ <u>at least one predetermined criterion for performing</u> at least one maintenance task <u>on said at least one server in said distributed computing environment</u> and <u>for</u> causing ~~the~~ <u>said</u> maintenance tool to <u>automatically</u> perform <u>said</u> at least one maintenance task ~~when the~~ <u>in response to said</u> maintenance scheduling ~~device~~ <u>tool</u> ~~detects~~ <u>detecting</u> ~~the need to perform~~ <u>said</u> at least <u>one predetermined criterion for performing said at least</u> one maintenance task ~~or at least once within a predetermined period~~<u>, wherein said at least one predetermined criterion comprises low disk space on said at least one server, and wherein said at least one maintenance task comprises reducing a size of log files stored on said at least one server in said distributed computing environment</u>.

15.   (Cancelled)

16.   (Cancelled)

17.   (Cancelled)

Attorney Docket No.: END920030058US1   USSN: 10/635,397   Filing Date: August 6, 2003
Group Art Unit: 4172   Examiner: Neil R. Kardos
Page 7 of 16

18.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein ~~the~~ said at least one

maintenance task further comprises:

      a maintenance routine for improving ~~computer system~~ operation of said at least

one server in said distributed computing environment.

19.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein ~~the~~ said at least one

maintenance task further comprises:

      a backup routine ~~of~~ for backing up system settings to an archive for said at least

one server in said distributed computing environment.

20.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 19, wherein ~~the~~ said system settings

further comprise configurations and authorizations for instances of applications running

on ~~a~~ said at least one server in said distributed computing environment.

21.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein ~~the~~ said at least one

maintenance task further comprises writing said log files to said at least one server in said

distributed computing environment.

22.   (Cancelled)

23.   (Cancelled)

24.   (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~ 21, wherein ~~the event further~~ ~~comprises a failure of a maintenance task~~ said maintenance tool automatically alerts an administrator when a maintenance task on said at least one server in said distributed computing environment performed fails.

25.   (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~23~~ 21, wherein ~~the event further~~ ~~comprises a maintenance task running too often~~ said maintenance tool automatically alerts an administrator when a maintenance task on said at least one server in said distributed computing environment is performed excessively.

26.   (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~14~~ 25, wherein ~~the~~ said predetermined period further comprises ~~once a day~~ said at least one maintenance task on said at least one server in said distributed computing environment being performed at least once within said predetermined period.

27.   (Cancelled)

28.   (Currently amended) A program storage medium readable by a ~~computer~~ server in a distributed computing environment, ~~the~~ said medium tangibly embodying one or more programs of instructions executable by ~~the~~ said ~~computer~~ server to perform a method for automatically scheduling ~~the~~ performance of maintenance tasks to maintain ~~a~~ ~~system~~ said distributed computing environment, ~~the~~ said method comprising:

monitoring ~~a parameter for a~~ server conditions on said server ~~computer system~~ to

~~dynamically~~ detect ~~a need to perform~~ at least one predetermined criterion for performing

at least one maintenance task on said server in said distributed computing environment;

and

automatically performing said at least one maintenance task ~~when the~~ in response

to said monitoring step ~~detects the need to perform at least one maintenance task~~ ~~or at~~

~~least once within a predetermined period~~, wherein said at least one predetermined

criterion comprises low disk space on said server in said distributed computing

environment, and wherein said at least one maintenance task comprises reducing a size of

log files stored on said server in said distributed computing environment.